



Discussion Guide for “How to Read Wisdom Literature”

How the Bible Works Week 9

We look to books like Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes for rules to help us live more godly lives. But these books don't want to make us smarter. They want to make us more wise. The difference is in how we see the world, and how these books can be guides to us, to help us live as God's people in even the most complicated situations.

Scriptures for Further Reading

[Proverbs 26:11](#)

[Proverbs 26:4-6](#)

[Proverbs 22:28](#)

[Proverbs 24:27](#)

Passage for Sacred Reading:

Sacred Reading is a way of reading Scripture with an eye toward transformation, not just information. You can find a [step-by-step guide here](#). The passage for this week's sacred reading is [Proverbs 26](#).

Questions for Discussion

1. What's the difference between knowledge and wisdom? How do you know if a person is wise?
2. How does Proverbs define wisdom? Why is calling someone a 'fool' not the same as calling them 'dumb'?
3. Reread Proverbs 26:4-6. How do these verses illustrate that Proverbs are designed to function as flexible principles rather than ridged rules?
4. Reread Proverbs 26:11. How does the imagery the proverb employs make its message more effective? Why is imagery so important for wisdom literature?
5. What area of your life do you need to grow in wisdom right now? How can Proverbs be a guide for you?